GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1416
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
HABITATION ON FOREST LAND
Agarwal Shri Dhirendra;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number persons including the farmers and the tribals are residing in the forest land and doing cultivation in forest land for so many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to handover such forest land to the landless farmers and the tribals who are residing there for more than 12 years;

(d) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There are large number of people including tribals residing and doing cultivation on forest land including people in 2474 forest villages.

(c) (d) & (e) The Government of India had issued guideline for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages and settlement of other old habitations in the year 1990. Under those guidelines, the Government of India has already regularized 40987 ha. of forest land in 511 forest villages. The process of conversion of forest villages into revenue villages was held up due to ban imposed by the Supreme Court on de-reservation of forests vide its order dated 13.11.2000 . In addition, the Government of India has enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 to recognize the rights of the people including tribals residing on forestland.